211

Delighted Marcel, to whom I told it this morning. "Wonderful illustration of the distinction between the English *can* and *may*" he said.

IMay

I am well; am happy. Again I know that indefinable *moral sensation* which gives me a light step: I am borne.

2

Bad day after a bad night. Nervous exhaustion; dispossession of myself. Loss of strength and loss of time.

3

Morning spent with Wojtkiewicz and his charming compatriot Joseph Retinger (and Druet) chasing from station to station and office to office looking for some crates containing ten canvases that S. is sending from Cologne.

16

May

Back from Cuverville, where we spent three days. I had, before leaving, written a preface for the Wojtkiewicz exhibit. Who else would have done it, once Maurice Denis had withdrawn?

Copeau, very cleverly, gets a picture of his sold by exclaiming in front of the "collector": "If I had been Gide, I know that this is the one I should have chosen!"

Perplexities as I correct for Claudel the proofs of *Connaissance au monde et de soi-meme:* so often grammar and syntax are intentionally outraged that I fear, at times, taking for an error some deliberate anomaly. But what can be said for *plus ou moindre?*[17] Religious certainty gives this robust mind a deplorable infatuation. Perhaps it is impossible to write quite correctly without some fear of making a mistake.

17

May

I was on my way out; I was going to see Philippe

Berthelot to ask his advice about the presentations of *Le Roi Candaule* at Cracow that Wojtkiewicz had told me about; at the gate I am caught by Jaloux, who has just got in from Marseille, and Miomandre, who is piloting him in Paris, The latter dressed all in gray, sparkling, light, full of verve. Jaloux a bit dull and his mind as if it had die snuffles^ yet very likable. It was easy for me to continue on my way, even with them; I did nothing of the sort. A sort of dizziness upset my will in a minute and the brakes loosened: at once I am given over to all the vagrant impulses of curiosity and van-

"More or lesser/'